



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**
Celebrating 28 Years of Advocacy & Achievement

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May 18, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia Curry, Chair 
Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families

**RE: AB 2093 (SKINNER) FOSTER YOUTH HIGHER EDUCATION AND
SUPPORT ACT OF 2012**

At its meeting held May 7, 2012, the Commission voted unanimously to request your Honorable Board's support of AB 2093 (Skinner), Foster Youth Higher Education and Support Act of 2012. AB 2093 is consistent with your December 7, 2010 ([Item No. 3](#)) motion that added "Self-Sufficiency" as a Countywide goal to improve the lives of foster youth. If passed, AB 2093 will be a catalyst for Self-Sufficiency enabling this vulnerable population to thrive in adulthood by attaining the most valuable tool for success, education.

Each year, over 4,500 foster youth emancipate or "age out" of the foster care system in California with no permanent relationship or adult guidance. Subsequently, many of these youth do not fare well as young adults, ending up homeless and unemployed from day one. Only 50% ever complete high school and only 2% go on to complete college.

Foster care students who transition from high school to college campuses have needs that differ from those of their non-foster peers. Student services personnel at most post-secondary institutions are unfamiliar with or unprepared to address the unique needs of this population. Even programs that target low-income and first-generation college students are not designed to aid the specific challenges faced by former foster youth. This bill would remedy that by enacting legislation that would request campuses of the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California to designate a foster youth campus support program coordinator using new or existing resources to provide comprehensive support to students who are current or former

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foster youth on public postsecondary educational institution campuses. The goal of foster youth campus support programs is to provide former foster youth attending higher education with specialized academic, social and financial support.

Therefore, we urge your support of AB 2093 (Skinner) recognizing that foster youth were removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect and abandonment, often at a very young age, and often emancipate from foster care without the traditional family support that provides a crucial safety net for young adults. If passed, AB 2093 will assist foster youth to mature into healthy, self-sufficient adults and go on to enjoy successful lives.

For these reasons, the Commission encourages your Board's support of AB 2093.

We thank you for the continued support given to this Commission whose primary goal is to improve the lives of children and families, specifically foster youth whose timing is critical as they reach emancipation or exit the child welfare system and adulthood is eminently upon them.

PC:ma

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Director, Department of Children and Family Services
County Counsel
Children's Deputies